

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of effecting a handoff in a cellular network, comprising:

monitoring a set of frequencies listed in a mobile assisted handoff (MAHO) list for their respective signal strengths;

logically ordering the frequencies based on their relative signal strengths;

identifying in the logically ordered set of frequencies those frequencies having a signal strength higher than a predetermined threshold;

associating a cellular site with at least each frequency in the set of frequencies that has a signal strength higher than the predetermined threshold;

determining a level of traffic at each cellular site identified in the associating; and

selecting a cellular site for handoff based at least in part on signal strength and in part on the level of traffic;

wherein determining the level of traffic at each cellular site includes accessing stored known load patterns for each cellular site, the stored known load patterns associating a level of traffic with a time period for each cellular site such that selecting a cellular site for handoff is based in part on expected load at each cellular site.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the MAHO list is generated by a mobile switching center (MSC).

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined threshold is a signal strength above which a communications link between a mobile device and a cellular site can be readily maintained.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying comprises representing the level of traffic with labels.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining comprises representing the level of traffic with numerical values.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting comprises determining which frequency of the frequencies having a signal strength higher than the predetermined threshold has the lowest level of traffic.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting the cellular site based in part on a projected route of a mobile device.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the signal strengths from a mobile device.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein steps are implemented at least in part with software.
12. – 32. (Canceled)
33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the logically ordering the frequencies includes ordering all frequencies from highest to lowest signal strength.